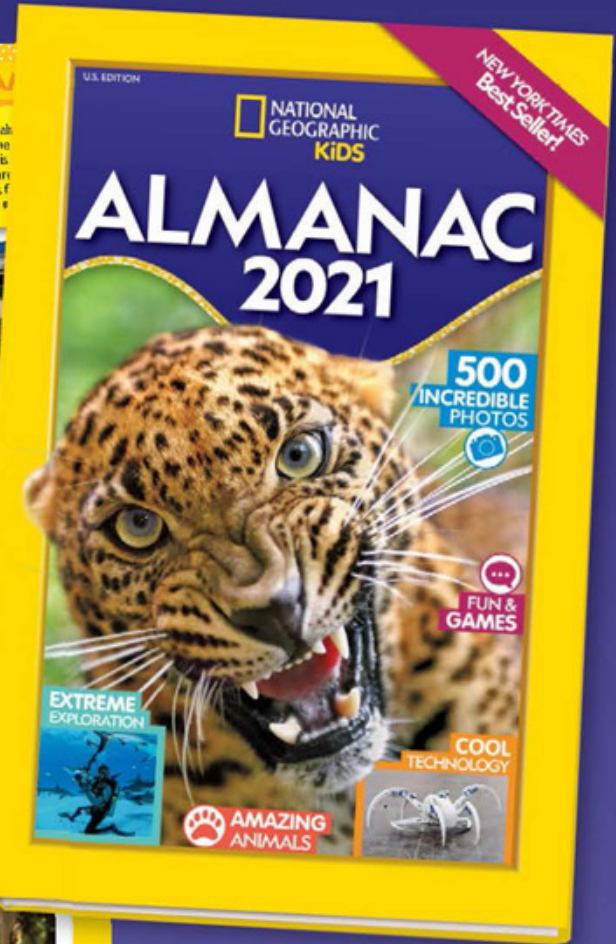


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weird
but
true!

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Sea Pups!

The surprising
ways sea lions act
like dogs

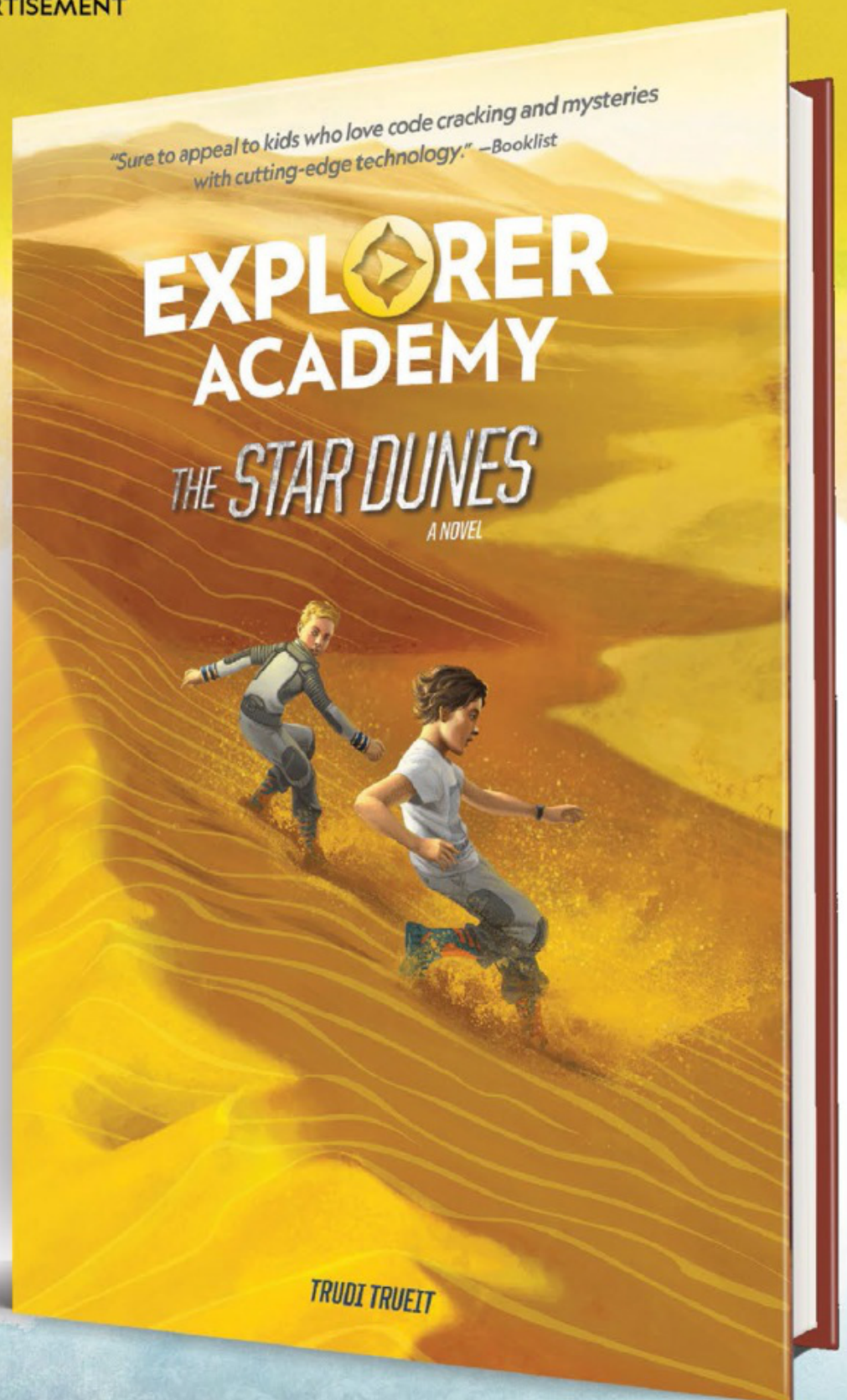


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IN THIS ISSUE

12 Sit! Stay! Swim!

Check out five surprising ways sea lions
can seem like dogs.

18 Blue Volcano

An unusual dazzling light
show erupts at night in
Indonesia.

20 30 Cool Things About the World

Discover jaw-dropping facts
about supersize reefs, weird
frogs, and more.

22 Animal Showdown

Which of these animals will
come out on top? You decide.

26 Bin There, Done That!

Follow your recyclables
after they leave your
house.

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **Weird But True!**
- 5 **Guinness World Records**
- 6 **Naughty Pets**
- 7 **Bet You Didn't Know!**
- 8 **By the Numbers**
- 10 **Amazing Animals**
- 28 **Fun Stuff**

**PET
TRAINING TIPS!**
SEE PAGE 28



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weird but true!

Check out these outrageous facts.

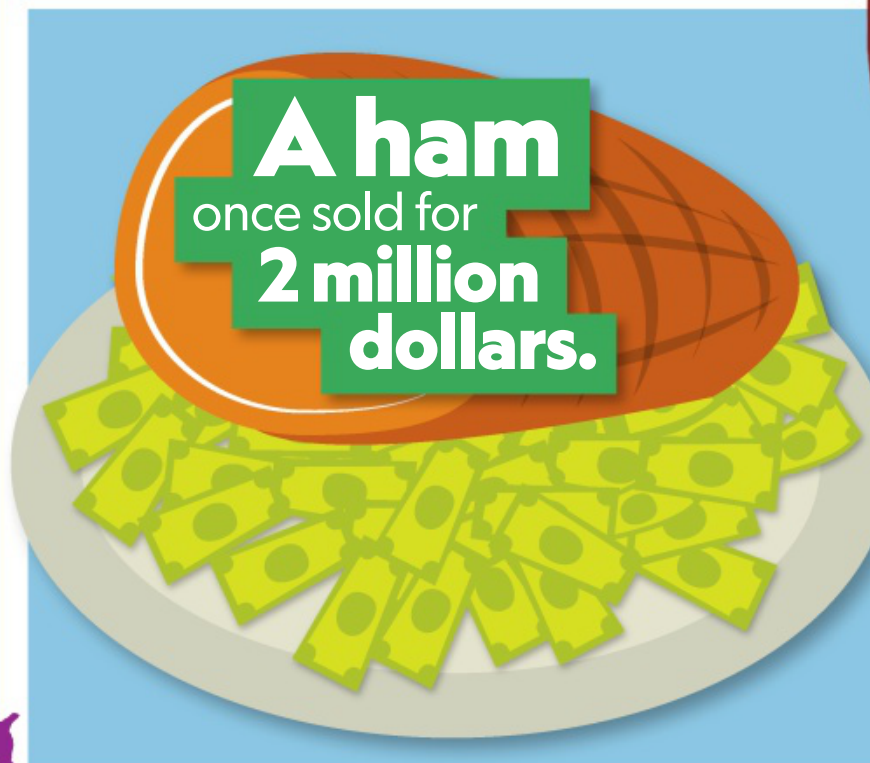
BY MARILYN TERRELL

If humans came in **as many sizes as dogs**, we'd range from

3 to 18 feet tall.



A cat's **top speed** is **31 miles an hour.**



A ham once sold for **2 million dollars.**

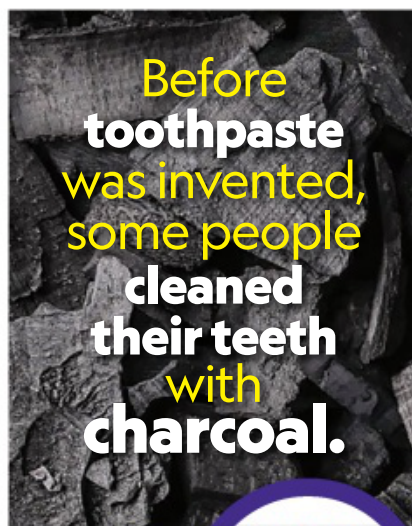
The regal horned lizard **squirts blood** out of its eyes to repel predators.

Many of today's pet hamsters can be traced back to one hamster family that lived in Syria in 1930.



SOME DIAMONDS FALL TO EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE.

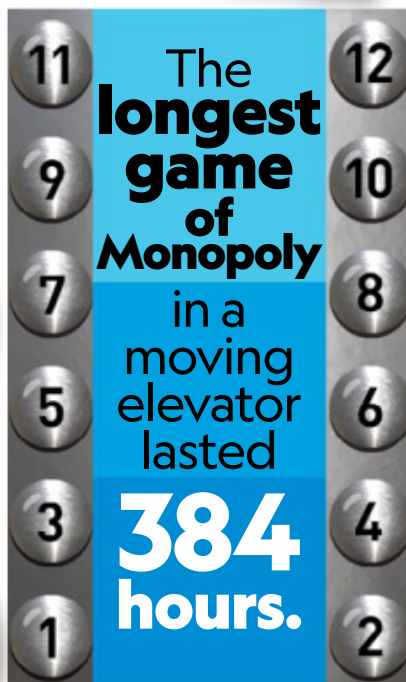
Before **toothpaste** was invented, some people cleaned their teeth with **charcoal.**



A woman in California **remembered** almost every day of her life since she was **11.**



The **longest game of Monopoly** in a moving elevator lasted **384 hours.**



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

BY BRANDON
McINTYRE

HUGE RACKET

You'll need a really big Ping-Pong ball to play with the world's largest table-tennis racket. The oversize paddle measures nearly 12 feet tall, or roughly the height of an adult male African elephant. That's about 20 times bigger than a standard paddle. International Table Tennis Federation rules state that rackets can be any size, so you *could* use it in competition. But you'd have to be able to lift it first!



AN EMPLOYEE OF PINS MECHANICAL COMPANY IN COLUMBUS, OHIO—WHERE THE RACKET IS ON DISPLAY—USES BOTH HANDS TO PICK UP THE PADDLE.



PIG PERFORMS TRICKS

Joy isn't just a one-trick miniature pig. The swine completed 13 tricks in less than 60 seconds, earning the title of most tricks performed by a pig in one minute. Joy's showstoppers include playing a toy piano, lifting a ring off its stand, and unrolling a rug. Now that's some pig.

SCOOPS ON SCOOPS

Italy is home to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and now ... a leaning tower of ice cream? Italian Dimitri Panciera holds the record for the most ice-cream scoops balanced on one cone, keeping 125 scoops of Italian ice cream, called gelato, on top of his cone for 10 seconds. So what happened to all that gelato? Panciera ate it, of course!



Naughty PETS

BY KELLEY MILLER

OH, GOOD.
YOU'RE BACK.
NOW YOU CAN
GIVE ME
SOMETHING
ELSE TO
DESTROY.

BET YOU
DIDN'T SEE
THAT KARATE
CHOP COMING,
MR. BUG.



NAME Cuddles

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Helping maintain a
bug-free home

FAVORITE TOY
Flyswatter

PET PEEVE Spiderwebs
on the ceiling



NAME Herbie

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Spreading couch stuffing
around the house to cover
the ugly carpet

FAVORITE TOY Sofa pillows

PET PEEVE Plastic chairs

AN ESSAY
ON COOL
CATS? I DON'T
THINK SO,
BUDDY!



NAME Baxter

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Checking Buddy's homework

FAVORITE TOY Paper shredders

PET PEEVE Violin practice

THAT
IS ONE
STRANGE-
LOOKING
SQUIRREL.



NAME Marshmallow

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Extreme tree climbing

FAVORITE TOY
Empty squirrel nests

PET PEEVE
When the crows steal
the catnip

**Bet You
Didn't
Know!**

7 bee facts to buzz about

BY JEANNETTE SWAIN



1

Bees have a special **stomach** for carrying nectar.

2

Some bees may **sleep** on flowers.

5

In summer, a single **hive** can house up to **80,000** honeybees.

3

A bee beats its **wings** up to **12,000** times each minute.

6

The **alkali bee** can visit up to **6,000** flowers a day.

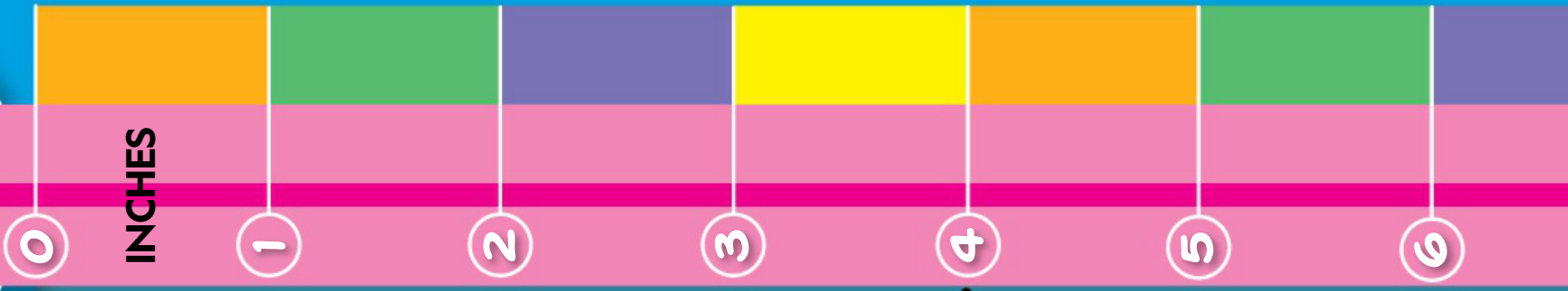
4

Male bees can't **sting**.

7

Sweat bees like the **taste** of human perspiration.

BY the NUMBERS



human:

4

INCHES

TONGUE-TIED

Can you lick your eyeball? Probably not, but some of these animals could! They use their long tongues to taste, catch, and smell their way through the day. Take a look at how these tongues measure up.

aardvark:

12

INCHES

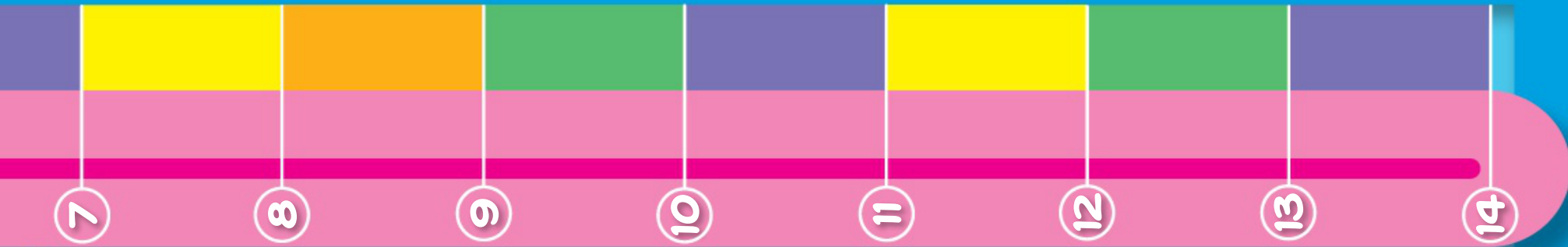


red-bellied
woodpecker:

6.7

INCHES





giraffe:
20
INCHES



anteater:
24
INCHES



veiled
chameleon:
19
INCHES



CHECK
OUT THE
BOOK!

AMAZING ANIMALS

CLEAN SEA =
HAPPY BIRDS!



BOB THE FLAMINGO
SWIMS IN THE
CARIBBEAN SEA.

Flamingo Says “Save the Earth!”

Willemstad, Curaçao

Bob the flamingo likes taking dips in his own saltwater pool and getting foot massages on the beach. This hard-working bird deserves all the pampering: He's teaching kids about conservation.

Veterinarian and wildlife sanctuary founder Odette Doest rescued Bob after he flew into a hotel window. After rehabilitating him, she realized he wouldn't be able to survive in the wild. So Doest decided to keep

Bob at her sanctuary and use the friendly bird to help educate people.

She often brings Bob to schools to teach kids about plastic pollution, which can harm wildlife when the animals become entangled in fishing gear or mistake discarded balloons as food. Bob helps people understand how a small change in their habits can have a big impact on his life, Doest says. Best bird ever!

—Christine Dell'Amore

Adapted from the February 2020 National Geographic magazine article “Meet Flamingo Bob, the Poster Bird for Conservation”



BOB AND TWO RESCUED
PELICANS SWIM WITH
CARETAKER ODETTE
DOEST.



BOB AND DOEST
VISIT A LOCAL
CLASSROOM.

LET'S
HAVE A
STARING
CONTEST.

Rabbit Builds Bed for Deer

Niedersachsen, Germany

After her mother was struck by a car, Finchen the fawn was brought to live on a farm. One day as she grazed, a wild rabbit appeared, and it was by Finchen's side ever since. "I watched them alert each other to hazards or predators so they could flee to safety," says Tanja Askani, who photographed the pair. But Finchen and her rabbit friend seemed to be more than each other's bodyguard. The rabbit must have realized that Finchen was too big to sleep underground, because the bunny built a grassy nest that was big enough for them both to curl up in. They were like a real-life Bambi and Thumper. —C.M. Tomlin



**RABBIT
AND DEER**
Niedersachsen,
Germany

FLAMINGO
Willemstad,
Curaçao

LEMUR
Mulhouse,
France



Blue-Eyed Lemur

Mulhouse, France

It's pretty hard to look away from Dimbi, a member of the blue-eyed black lemur species. With his large baby blues, the animal isn't just, well, eye-catching—he's also extremely rare.

Dimbi belongs to one of a few groups of primates besides humans that can have blue eyes in addition to brown. The rest of the world's roughly 600 primate species and subspecies have only brown eyes. "We're really not sure why these lemurs' irises are colored this way," says Sarah Zehr, formerly a scientist at the Duke Lemur Center. "It's very unusual." Dimbi's species is also critically endangered. Fewer than 3,000 are thought to exist in Madagascar, where wild blue-eyed black lemurs live.

Born at the Mulhouse Zoo, Dimbi resided with his parents until keepers noticed that his mom wasn't properly caring for him. Deciding to raise the animal, staff placed the baby in a toasty incubator, gave him a plush teddy bear for cuddling, and bottle-fed him milk every two hours. Now bigger, Dimbi has moved into an outdoor enclosure with another lemur.

"Dimbi's thriving," zoo veterinarian Benoît Quintard says. "He loves exploring and eating." And the animal's eyes continue to amaze his keepers. "Every time I look at them, I realize how special Dimbi is," Quintard says.

—April Capochino Myers





Sit! Stay! Swim!

5 surprising ways sea lions can seem like dogs

BY SCOTT ELDER

Hundreds of Australian sea lions have gathered together along the Australian coast. Some are sprawled out on the beach, sunning themselves. Others bark as they chase each other in the surf. Minus their flippers, these animals could fit right in at a dog park.

These marine mammals actually do remind some people of our furry pooch pals. “Sea lions are curious and playful, which is very doglike,” says Deena Weisberg, a researcher who studies human and sea lion interactions in the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. “Even when they’re in the water, they behave very similarly to dogs.” So should sea lions really be called sea *dogs* instead? Check out these five behaviors to decide.



A PAIR OF AUSTRALIAN SEA LIONS CHECK OUT A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CAMERA NEAR PORT LINCOLN, AUSTRALIA.



A GALÁPAGOS SEA LION BARKS ON A BEACH IN ECUADOR, A COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Male sea lions are called bulls, females are called cows, and babies are pups.

1

They bark—loudly.

Two male Galápagos sea lions stare at each other and begin to bark, taking turns shouting “ORK! ORK! ORK!” A chorus of hundreds of other sea lions back them up, like they’re taking sides in the barking battle.

If you’ve ever walked by a dog park, you know how loud a few barking dogs can be—and that one dog barking can cause many more to join in. When sea lions bark, they sound similar—except they’re *much* louder since hundreds of them hang out together. Sometimes, like dogs, sea lions bark to get another animal’s attention. But sometimes they’re barking to see which can be the loudest. Why? The winning sea lion gets access to the best beach territory, which increases his chance of mating.

“Sea lions bark to communicate, like dogs do,” animal psychologist Peter Cook says. “A bark can express emotion, like irritation or anger when another lion gets too close. Or it can be a response to something scary, like a predator.” Barks can also show excitement.

Although sea lions sound the same to us, the animals can tell the difference between each other. In fact, moms and pups use special calls to find each other in crowded nurseries.



GALÁPAGOS SEA LION PUPS PLAY IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, LOCATED OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR.

TAKE A **FUN QUIZ** ABOUT DOGS!
natgeokids.com/august

A CALIFORNIA SEA LION PRACTICES PORPOISING, OR DIVING QUICKLY IN AND OUT OF WATER, IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ NEAR MEXICO.



SEA LION OR SEAL?

Sea lions and seals are pinnipeds, meaning they have flipper-like limbs. The two marine mammal species can be hard to tell apart—check out a few ways to spot the difference.

California sea lion



SEA LION

Harbor seal



SEAL

EARS

Sea lions have ear flaps that stick out of their heads.

Seals have ear holes for hearing, with no flaps.

FRONT FLIPPERS

Their front flippers are furless with short claws.

Their front flippers are fur-covered with long claws.

BACK FLIPPERS

They can rotate their hind flippers under their bodies so they can walk on land.

Their hind flippers don't rotate inward, so seals use their belly muscles to scoot on land.

NOISE LEVEL

Sea lions communicate through loud barking or bellowing.

Seals usually grunt softly to communicate.

2

They have a *lot* of energy. (But they still love naps!)

The California sea lion's body quickly pops out of the water before it dives back under. It shoots up again, then back under. The sea lion blasts in and out of the water along the coast, sort of like a superfast skipping stone. The sea lion doesn't have a destination in mind—it's just doing something called "porpoising."

When a dog needs to burn off energy, its owner takes it for a long walk or a sprint around the backyard. Sea lions "porpoise," or swim at fast speeds, zooming out of the water to dive like, well, a porpoise. "Sea lions are one of the fastest marine mammals," says scientist Adam Ratner of the Marine Mammal Center, an ocean conservation organization in Sausalito, California. "They can go as fast as 25 miles an hour." That's about five times speedier than an Olympic swimmer.

Sea lions don't just go fast. They go far. Like a dog that never seems to want to come in from its walk, sea lions often make long swims from their home, sometimes porpoising several miles away and back again in the same day. When they need a break, they'll form a sea lion raft on the water and take a group nap—just like a pair of dog friends at home on their bed.

A GROUP OF GALÁPAGOS SEA LIONS NAP IN THE SUN.



3

They ♥ humans.

A California sea lion circles a human diver. Instead of swimming away, it bumps its nose to the diver's face mask to figure out what this strange sea creature is. The diver quietly floats, careful not to touch the curious sea lion as it continues to dart and swirl around her.

When many dogs see new people, they can't resist introducing themselves. Sea lions, especially pups, can be the same way. Naturally curious, they'll waddle toward people on beaches or check out swimmers to get a better look. Underwater, sea lions will inspect scuba divers and their gear by nudging them.

But just because the sea mammals are curious doesn't mean they're your new best friends. "Sea lions are rarely aggressive toward humans," Ratner says. "But they're still wild animals that should be left alone." So if a sea lion approaches you, treat it like, well, a dog you don't know. Stay calm, don't try to touch it, and keep as much distance as possible until it gets bored and swims away.

A CALIFORNIA SEA LION CHECKS OUT A DIVER OFF THE COAST OF MEXICO.

Sea lions use their whiskers, called vibrissae (pronounced VEYE-bree-see), to detect the movements of nearby fish.



4

They hang out in packs—er, rafts.

Hundreds of Steller sea lions are squeezed together on a rocky section of a beach near Sitka, a city in south-east Alaska. More sea lions couldn't *possibly* squish themselves into the group, called a raft. But then a pup waddles up, climbs on top of a few sea lions on the edge, and scuttles across several more until it reaches the middle. It wedges itself in between two larger sea lions before falling asleep.

Sea lions, like most dog breeds, are social animals that prefer to spend time in pairs or groups. The socializing starts soon after the pups are born. Mother

sea lions need to eat in order to nurse their young with milk. "So the moms spend hours each day hunting, leaving hundreds of young pups on the beach to play with each other," Ratner says. "It's sort of like an unsupervised recess."

And like dogs that share a home with cats, sea lions can interact with other animals in their ocean home as well. They've been spotted swimming with whales and sharing beaches with seals. "I've seen sea lions climb on a 5,000-pound elephant seal," Ratner says. "The seal was totally used to being treated like a jungle gym."

A GROUP OF STELLER SEA LIONS HANG OUT IN A RAFT ALONG THE COAST OF ALASKA.

A PAIR OF GALÁPAGOS SEA LIONS NAP ALONGSIDE MARINE IGUANAS IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS.

SEE MORE SNOOZING ANIMALS.
natgeokids.com/august

5

They play "fetch" (sort of).

A California sea lion picks up a sea star with its mouth and swims to a spot about 12 feet away. The sea lion drops the star onto a pile of other sea stars, sea cucumbers, and rocks. It swims away, snatches up another rock, and adds it to the pile. The sea lion nudges the objects on the seafloor with its nose, playfully knocking over the objects in the pile.

Dogs chase tennis balls and chew on squeaky bones. Sea lions love to play too, but their toys are colorful playthings found in the ocean. "Using their nose and mouth to investigate objects, sea lions are constantly exploring their surroundings," Ratner says. That could be anything from picking up sea stars to trying to find an octopus hiding in the rocks. "Whether they're swimming around with some of their sea lion friends or chasing down fish for lunch, sea lions are always staying active," Ratner says. Just like dogs!

Sea lions eat about 30 pounds of fish, squid, and other food every day.

A CALIFORNIA SEA LION PLAYS WITH A SEA STAR IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ NEAR MEXICO.

SEA LION SQUAD

Sea lions can be found in every ocean in the world except for the North Atlantic Ocean. (Scientists have no idea why—the temperature is similar to other oceans they live in, and food is plentiful.) Meet the planet's six species of sea lions.



New Zealand sea lion

Also known as Hooker's sea lion, this species lives along the coasts of southern New Zealand. Only about 3,000 are left, making them the rarest sea lions in the world.



Steller sea lion

These sea lions live near coasts in the North Pacific Ocean. They're the largest sea lion, with adult males weighing up to 2,500 pounds, more than twice the weight of a male polar bear.



Galápagos sea lion

Found in only two places—the Galápagos Islands and Isla de la Plata, both off the coast of Ecuador—these sea lions can hold their breath underwater for up to 40 minutes.



California sea lion

Found along the western coast of North America, these sea lions often gather in groups on docks to rest and can zip underwater at speeds of up to 25 miles an hour.



Australian sea lion

You'll find these sea lions along the southern and western coasts of Australia. Great climbers, they're often spotted on cliffs, sometimes climbing as high as a hundred feet.



South American sea lion

Swimming along both the eastern and western coasts of South America, this species is best known for the large lionlike manes that the adult males grow.



Once found in the waters around Japan and on the eastern Russian and Korean coasts, **Japanese sea lions** (seen in the drawing above) are thought to have gone extinct in the 1970s.



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Small Volcano

BY RENEE SKELTON

A strange eruption creates a dazzling light show.

The night is pitch-black. But the dark slopes of a hill inside the crater of Kawah Ijen volcano in Indonesia, a country in Asia, are lit up like a holiday light show. Tourists flock to the volcano to see what look like glowing blue rivers of lava. But they aren't rivers of lava. They're rivers of glowing sulfur.

Burning Blue

Glowing red lava flowing from an erupting volcano isn't unusual. Glowing sulfur is. Hot, sulfur-rich gases escape constantly from cracks called fumaroles in Kawah Ijen's crater. The gases cool when they hit the air. Some condense into liquid sulfur, which flows down the hillside. When the sulfur and leftover gases ignite, they burn bright blue and light up the night sky.



Scientists were told that sulfur miners on the volcano sometimes use torches to ignite the sulfur. The blue flames make Kawah Ijen popular with tourists, who watch from a safe distance. Scientists have also confirmed that some of the sulfur and gases also burn naturally, igniting as hot gases combine with oxygen in the air.

Volcano Miners

Sulfur is a common volcanic gas, and its chemical properties are used to manufacture many things, such as rubber. But it's so plentiful in Kawah Ijen's crater that miners make a dangerous daily trek into the crater to collect sulfur from a fumarole near an acid lake.

"The local people pipe the gases from the fumarole through ceramic pipes," says John Pallister, a retired geologist with the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Washington State. He has walked into the crater himself, wearing a gas mask for protection against the clouds of acid that rise from the lake. "They spray the pipes with water from a spring," he says. This cools the gases and causes them to condense into molten sulfur. The sulfur then cools and hardens into rock.

Using this method, miners get more

usable rock faster than if they just collected scattered pieces. They smash up the rock with metal bars, stuff the pieces into baskets, and carry them out of the crater on their backs. The loads are heavy—between 100 and 200 pounds apiece.

Reading the Danger Zone

Miners face another danger: a huge eruption. Kawah Ijen's last big eruption was almost 200 years ago, but the volcano is still active. A big eruption could endanger hundreds of miners and tourists.

Indonesian scientists want to find a way to predict a big eruption in time to keep everyone safe. But the deep acid lake makes it difficult to pick up the usual signals that warn of a coming volcanic eruption.

For example, certain gases are usually more abundant right before an eruption. But in *this* lake, those gases dissolve in the deep water before they can register on the geologists' monitoring equipment.

As scientists search for ways to predict this unusual volcano's behavior, Kawah Ijen's blue fires continue to attract audiences who appreciate the volcano's amazing glow.

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

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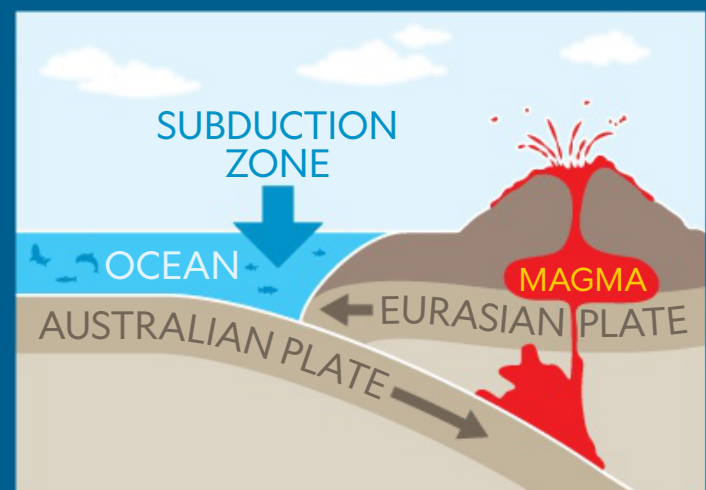


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CANNO



How Kawah Ijen Erupts

Earth's outer shell is broken into a jigsaw puzzle of several tectonic plates, or gigantic slabs of rock, that move constantly. In Indonesia, the oceanic **Australian plate** slips under the **Eurasian plate** at a **subduction zone**. As the Australian plate slides deep down, heat generated in Earth's interior makes the plate superhot, and parts of it melt. This melted rock, called **magma**, rises toward Earth's surface. Pressure on the magma lessens as it rises, allowing gases inside to expand, which can lead to explosive volcanic eruptions.



Indonesia is a group of more than **17,500 islands** off the coast of **Southeast Asia**. It's the **largest country** in the region.

FUN FACTS ABOUT INDONESIA

When the volcano on the tiny Indonesian island of **Krakatau** erupted in August 1883, it could be heard thousands of miles away.

The *Rafflesia arnoldii*, the **largest single flower in the world**, grows in Indonesia. The flower **smells like rotting meat**, can grow three feet across, and weighs up to 24 pounds.

Nearly **11 million people** live in **Jakarta**, Indonesia's city with the largest population. That's almost **2.5 million more people** than are living in New York City.



More than **70 active volcanoes** are in Indonesia.





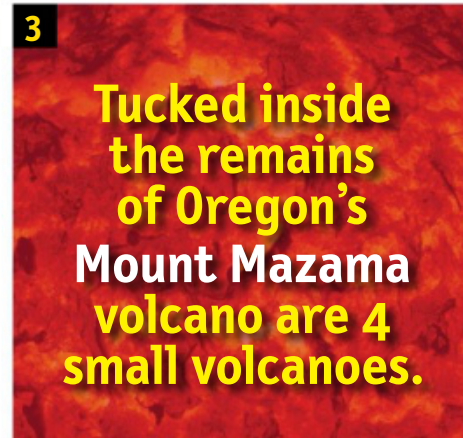
1

China's mountainous bamboo forests can rise sharply—but giant pandas can easily climb as high as **13,000 FEET** up the slopes.



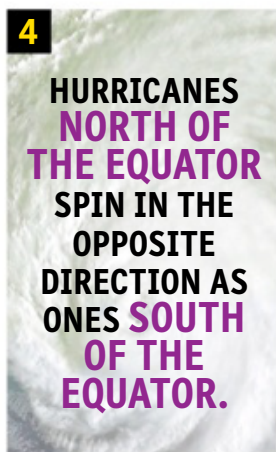
2

BEFORE THE 1400s IN EUROPE, PORTUGAL'S SOUTHERN COAST WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE EDGE OF THE KNOWN WORLD.



3

Tucked inside the remains of Oregon's Mount Mazama volcano are 4 small volcanoes.



4

HURRICANES NORTH OF THE EQUATOR SPIN IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AS ONES SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR.



5

About **12,000 years ago**, the **Sahara** was covered with millions of trees.



6

THE CHOCOLATE HILLS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE SHAPED LIKE GIANT HERSHEY'S KISSES.

30 COOL THINGS ABOUT



7

A TOWN IN MARYLAND IS NAMED BORING.



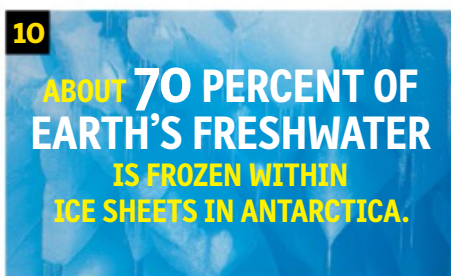
8

The Flåm Railway takes passengers along part of Norway's longest fjord.



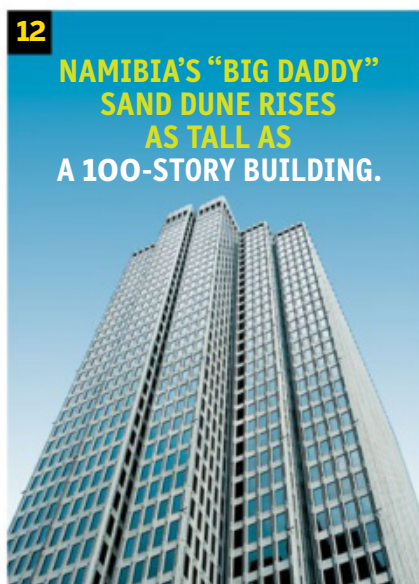
9

More people live in TAMPA, FLORIDA, than in all of ICELAND.



10

ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF EARTH'S FRESHWATER IS FROZEN WITHIN ICE SHEETS IN ANTARCTICA.



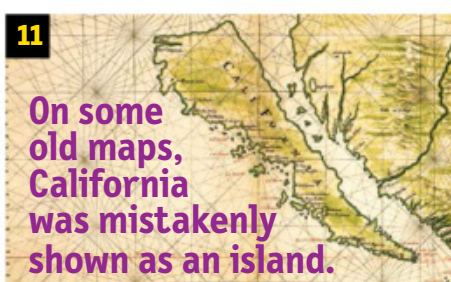
12

NAMIBIA'S "BIG DADDY" SAND DUNE RISES AS TALL AS A 100-STORY BUILDING.



13

The United Arab Emirates has 2 artificial islands SHAPED LIKE PALM TREES.



11

On some old maps, California was mistakenly shown as an island.



14

When hit with a hammer, some rocks in PENNSYLVANIA'S RINGING ROCKS PARK create bell-like sounds.



15

CANADA'S THOR PEAK IS THOUGHT TO HAVE THE WORLD'S LONGEST UNINTERRUPTED CLIFF FACE.

16

EARTH ROTATES ON ITS AXIS 1.5 MILLISECONDS SLOWER EVERY CENTURY.



17

In Jordan's ancient city of Petra, buildings were carved directly into cliff walls.



18

WHEN FORESTS FLOOD ALONG SOUTH AMERICA'S AMAZON RIVER, RIVER DOLPHINS SOMETIMES SWIM AROUND TREES.



19

The scorching deserts of North Africa don't hurt the sand cat—the animal's paw pads are covered in fur to protect its feet from heat.



20

BEIJING

BERLIN

BAKU

BERN

MORE CAPITAL CITIES START WITH THE LETTER B THAN WITH ANY OTHER LETTER.



21

Mawsynram, India, receives nearly 40 FEET OF RAIN A YEAR.



23

THE DEAD SEA'S WATER LEVEL DROPS MORE THAN 3 FEET EACH YEAR.



22

SWEPT TO SEA BY A 2011 TSUNAMI, A MOTORCYCLE DRIFTED FROM JAPAN TO CANADA.

THE WORLD

BY ZACHARY PETIT

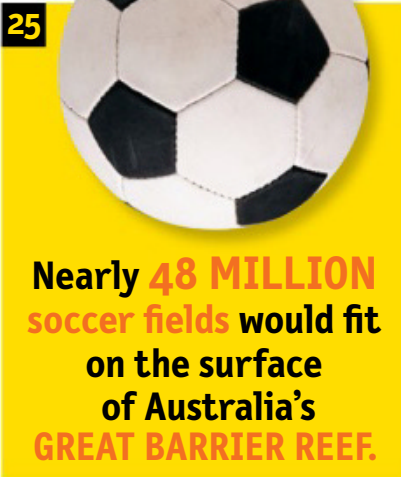
24

England's Bishop Rock is considered one of the smallest islands with a light-house on it.



25

Nearly 48 MILLION soccer fields would fit on the surface of Australia's GREAT BARRIER REEF.



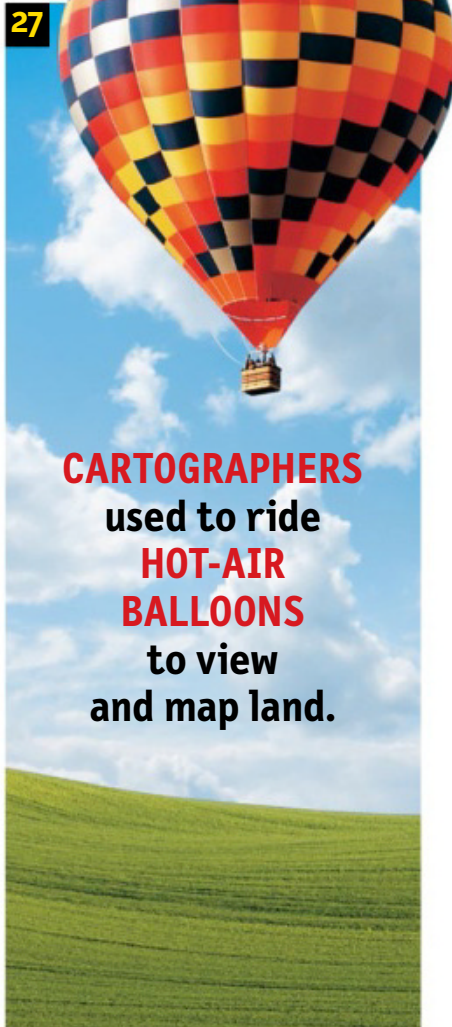
26

A SUPERSTRONG HURRICANE in 2012 made the Mississippi River flow backward.



27

CARTOGRAPHERS used to ride HOT-AIR BALLOONS to view and map land.



28

INDONESIA'S REMOTE FOJA MOUNTAINS ARE HOME TO BIZARRE SPECIES SUCH AS THE PINOCCHIO-NOSED FROG.



29

One cave in Malaysia is big enough to hold 8 jumbo jets.



30

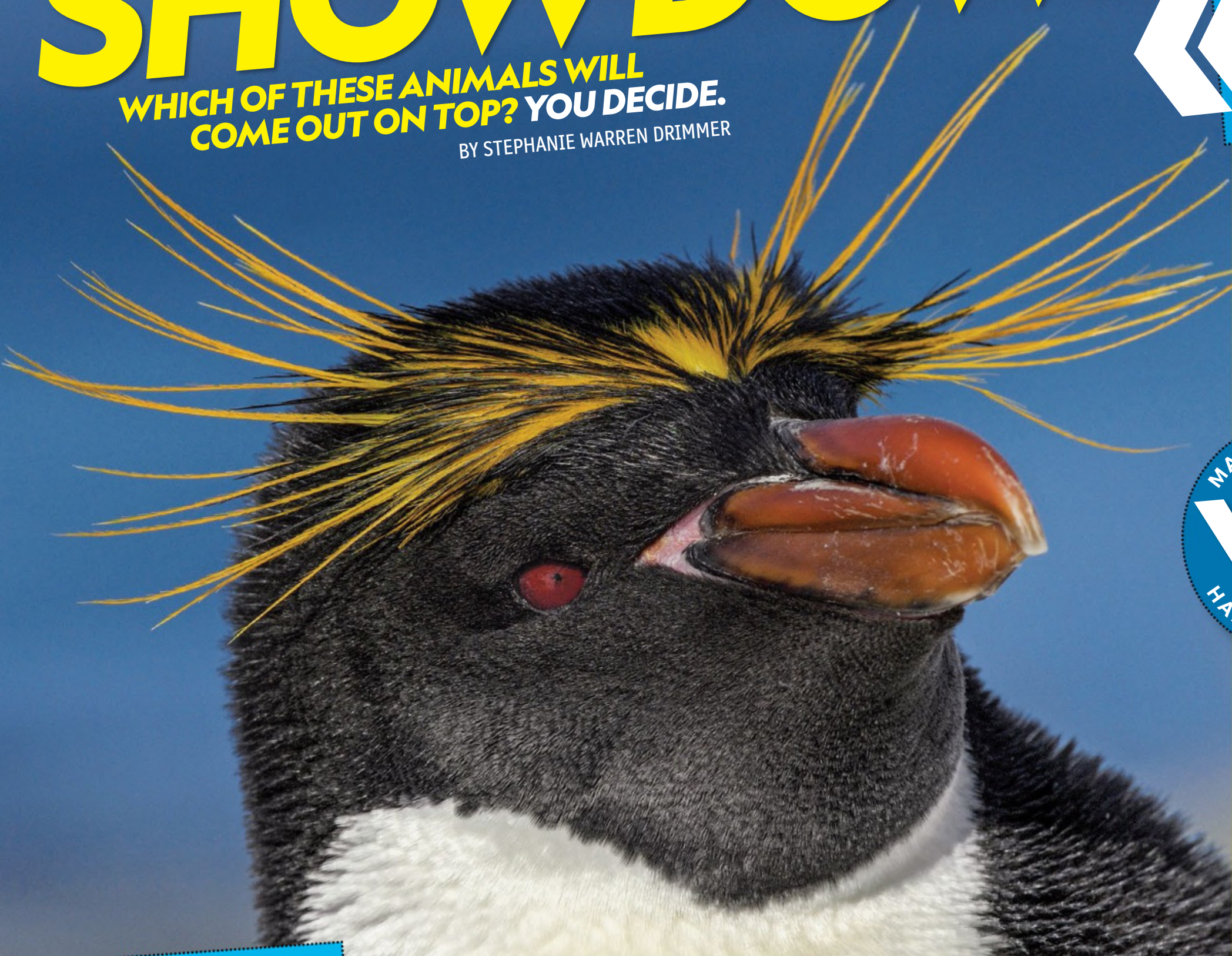
THE SURFACE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS LARGER THAN ALL OF EARTH'S CONTINENTS COMBINED.



ANIMAL SHOWDOWN

WHICH OF THESE ANIMALS WILL
COME OUT ON TOP? YOU DECIDE.

BY STEPHANIE WARREN DRIMMER



MACARONI PENGUIN

COOL CREST, BRO: When you think of a penguin, you likely picture a plain black-and-white bird. But the macaroni penguin sports a crazier look. The orange-

yellow crest of feathers on its head begins between its eyes and extends backward in a V shape. Its bright hairdo really stands out in snowy Antarctica, where these penguins gather in dense colonies that can number more than 100,000 birds. That's a lot of good hair.

SHOWING OFF: Macaroni penguins use their crests to attract partners. During mating season, the male and female penguins will bow forward, then stretch their beaks straight up, calling loudly and shaking their heads back and forth to call attention to their over-the-top hairdos.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? When British explorers first spotted these unusual penguins in the 18th century, they named the birds after a fashion trend back home. "Macaronis" were men who wore showy clothes and fancy, super-tall wigs. We can see the resemblance!

BEST HAIRDO

Humans can rock braids, mohawks, and more. (After all, we're one of the few animals that sport a crop of hair on our heads.) But our hairstyles are nothing special compared to those of the **MACARONI PENGUIN** and the **HAIRY FROGFISH**. So which creature wins the fight for **BEST HAIRDO**?

MACARONI PENGUIN
VS.
HAIRY FROGFISH

HAIRY FROGFISH

COOL CAMOUFLAGE:

The hairy frogfish's body is covered in thousands of spines that look like strands of hair. Its furry appearance helps it hide effectively on the ocean floor, blending in with coral reefs in the warm, tropical waters where it lives. Frogfish can even change color to better camouflage themselves, turning their spines shades of yellow, pink, red, brown, and cream.

IMPRESSIVE HEADGEAR:

Frogfish have lures jutting from their heads that they wave in front of their mouths like built-in fishing rods to attract prey. Some species' lures resemble shrimp, and others pass for tiny squid. These lures are extra accessories that make their do look fierce.

FAST FOOD: When it sees a potential snack, the hairy frogfish waves its lure and lunges from its hiding place. Then, *gulp!* Goodbye, unsuspecting crustacean or small fish. And it's the frogfish's hairstyle that keeps prey from noticing it, making its extreme eating habits possible.



Both animals have impressive "hair." After all, the macaroni penguin has such a distinctive do that it helped inspire the animal's name. But the hairy frogfish can not only change the color of its hairlike spines, it actually uses its shaggy covering to catch prey. That gives the frogfish the superior style. **WINNER: HAIRY FROGFISH**

MOST VENOMOUS

Watch out: These creatures are among the most toxic in the animal kingdom. Get the lowdown on which lethal critter—the **DEATHSTALKER SCORPION** or the **BOX JELLYFISH**—wins the title of **MOST VENOMOUS**.

DEATHSTALKER SCORPION

THE NAME SAYS IT ALL: The deathstalker scorpion is a stealthy hunter, remaining motionless as it hides under a rock waiting for a cricket or another clueless insect to creep by. Then the scorpion springs from its hiding place, grabs the critter in its pincers, and delivers its deadly sting.

PUNY PINCERS, BIG STING: One way to judge the power of a scorpion's venom is by looking at its pincers. Scorpion species with big pincers can subdue prey just by grabbing it, so they don't need strong venom. Scorpions with small pincers, like the deathstalker, need powerful venom to make up for a weaker grip.

INSIDE THE VENOM: The paralyzing power comes from a molecule that blocks certain chemicals in the venom from entering the victim's muscle cells. Normally those chemicals tell muscles to relax. But because the chemicals are blocked, the muscles seize up.

BOX JELLYFISH

ON THE HUNT: Most jellies spend their lives floating along ocean currents and snacking on whatever drifts by. Not the box jellyfish. It actively hunts its prey, jetting through the water at speeds of around three feet every five seconds. It can also use its 10-foot-long tentacles as fishing poles. That's pretty smart behavior for an animal without a brain.

SELF-DEFENSE: The box jelly's tentacles are covered in stinging cells containing some of the strongest venom on the planet. This toxin plays an important role in the jelly's safety. The jelly's swift-acting venom prevents its prey from struggling and damaging the jelly's delicate tentacles.

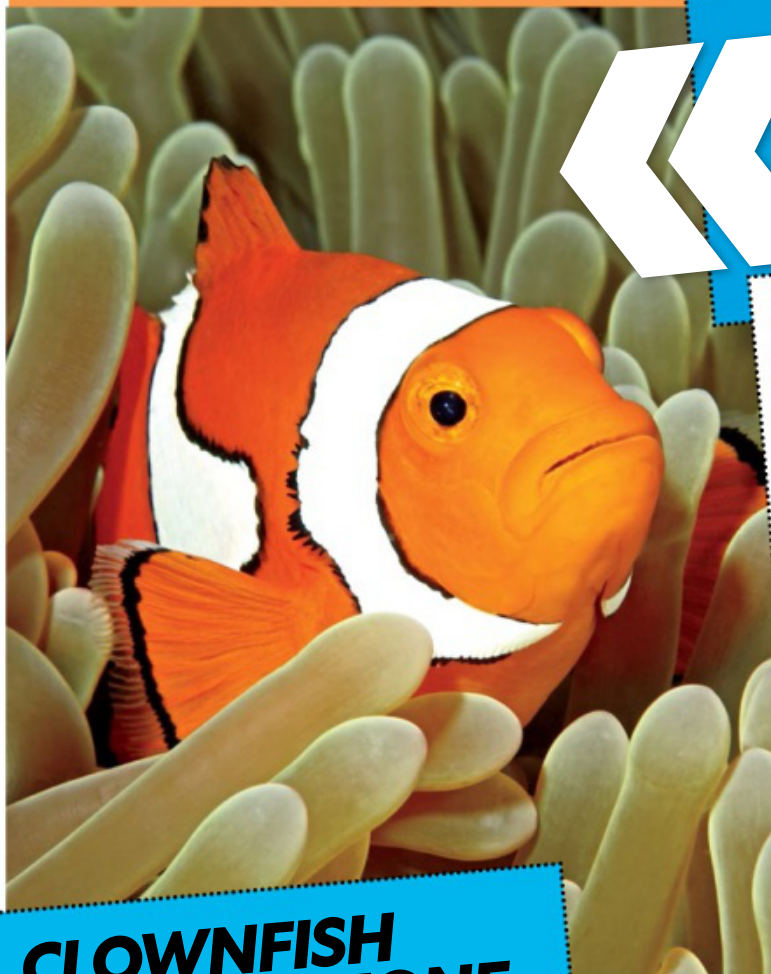
STING STATS: A box jelly can have up to 15 tentacles growing from each corner of its cube-shaped body. Each tentacle has about 5,000 barbed cells containing venom. In humans, the venom can paralyze muscles, stop the heart, and sometimes cause death, minutes after the sting.



Sure, the deathstalker scorpion can cause humans intense pain. But unlike a deathstalker scorpion's venom, which only affects human muscles, box jellyfish venom attacks the nervous system and even skin cells. That makes the box jelly the most venomous animal in the sea, and possibly on the planet. **WINNER: BOX JELLYFISH**

CHECK OUT THE BOOK!





CLOSEST BFFS

They may not share popcorn at the movies or borrow each other's clothes, but these animal pairs have some of the best partnerships in nature. Find out which duo will stay BFFs: **CLOWNFISH AND ANEMONE** or **MONGOOSE AND WARTHOG**.

CLOWNFISH AND ANEMONE

UNDERWATER ALLIES: Clownfish have a close relationship with certain species of anemones. The little fish live among the stinging sea creature's tentacles, where the clownfish are protected from predators. In return for the shelter, they provide the anemone with food scraps from their meals and chase away intruders.

SLIME SHIELD: It's not easy living inside a home that stings you. Some species of clownfish gently touch their host anemone again and again when they first move in. Scientists think this process adds chemicals to the natural layer of mucus the clownfish wears, and that those chemicals tell the anemone not to sting.

SHARE THE AIR: Clownfish perform a complex dance inside their anemone hosts, turning and weaving through their many tentacles. Scientists think this dance isn't just for fun: It helps move fresh, oxygen-rich water over the anemone so it can breathe.



MONGOOSE AND WARTHOG

PRIMPING PIG: When the warthog lies down, it's a signal to the mongoose that the bigger animal wants a spa treatment. The furry mongoose then climbs on the warthog and grooms it, even cleaning inside its ears.

MY TURN: In exchange for their cleaning service, mongooses get a meal. Dead skin, along with ticks living on the warthogs, provides a tasty snack. As a thank-you, warthogs keep their defensive tusks to themselves.

ODD COUPLE: Warthogs don't look very friendly. These wild members of the pig family sport four sharp tusks and a large head covered with wartlike bumps. They can weigh up to 250 pounds and run 30 miles an hour—as fast as a charging bull. Yet they're known to spend time with the smaller mongoose, which weighs only about 11 pounds, in the grasslands of Africa where the creatures live.



Warthogs and mongooses definitely take care of each other, but they aren't as tight as a clownfish and anemone twosome. Clownfish wouldn't be able to survive without their anemone partners' protection. That makes these marine animals true BFFs for life. **WINNER: CLOWNFISH AND ANEMONE**

FOR MORE CRITTER MATCHUPS, WATCH ANIMAL SHOWDOWN.
natgeokids.com/august

Bin There, Done That!

Check out what happens to your recyclables after they leave your house.

BY ALLYSON SHAW
ART BY CLAYTON HANMER

You always put your old homework paper and plastic bottles into the recycling bin. Go, you! But that's just the first step for the 67 million tons of waste Americans recycle each year. Take a tour of the first stop for your recyclables: the facility where the materials are sorted.

1 TRUCK STOP

A truck cruises to your curbside and workers snag the items from your recycle bin, eventually bringing them to a place called a materials recovery facility, or MRF (pronounced MURF). This is where items will be sorted by material (like paper and aluminum) so they can be sent to other facilities and recycled into new products.

2 PUSHOVER

The truck dumps its haul in an area of the MRF called the tipping floor. A tractor pushes the heaps of mixed recyclables onto a slow-moving conveyor belt. As the items move forward, they bump against a spinning cylinder that spreads the waste onto another conveyor belt in a layer that's about six to eight inches thick—just the right height for the rest of the system to work.

3 BAD BAGS

Sometimes we put the wrong stuff into our recycling bins. So while the materials are whooshing by on the conveyor belt, fast-fingered workers pull out items that might damage the MRF's machines, like plastic bags and plastic wrap that can tangle in the equipment. Workers also look for electronics, big pieces of metal, and clothing: They're usually sent to a landfill from here.

4 SURFIN' PAPER

Next the recyclables meet a series of jagged wheels made out of rubber. Light, flat items like paper and cardboard easily ride the twirling discs like a surfer on a wave, while bulky items fall onto another conveyor belt. The sorted and baled paper then goes to another plant. There it's cleaned, crushed into pulp, and then turned into recycled paper.

5 SHATTERING GLASS

The remaining objects—mostly glass, plastic, and small metal—arrive at a set of rotating steel discs that break glass into tiny pieces. Other items bounce on top. The shattered stuff falls into a machine where a stream of air removes bits of paper. The fragments then go to a special glass recycling facility.

6 POOF, PLASTICS

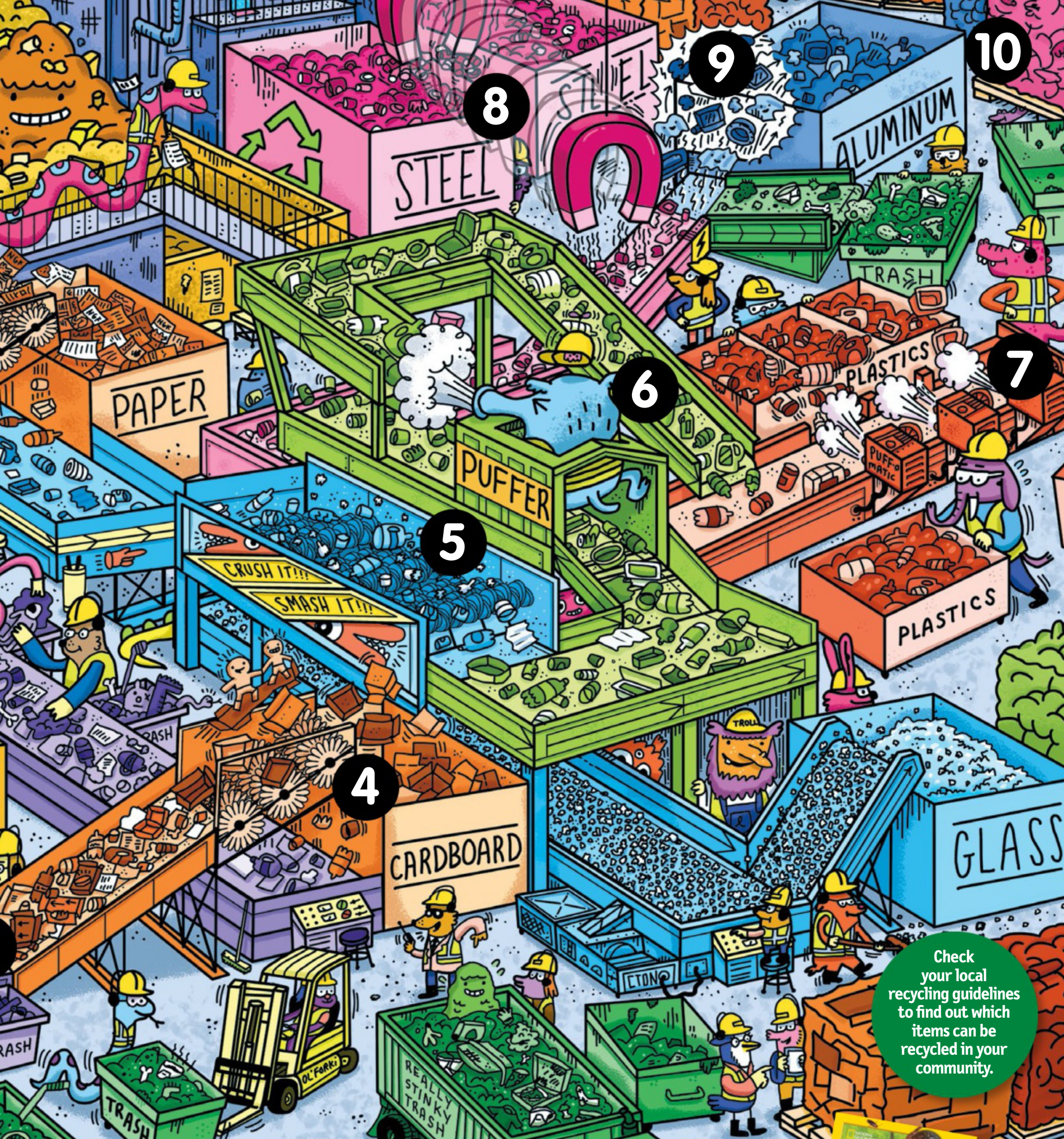
So now what happens to what's left over? A stream of air blows lighter items like plastic to a new conveyor belt, while heavier items like metal keep going.

7 PLASTIC SORTING

Different types of plastic need to be separated before they can be recycled. As plastic travels along the conveyor belt, a machine with an infrared camera beams light at the items to identify the plastic. (It's all about how the light reflects off the item.) Once the machine recognizes a certain type, a burst of air pushes the item into the correct bucket. Then they go to another facility to become recycled products.

Every facility has its own equipment and process—this is a peek into just one type.





8 MAGNETIC MAGIC
As the metal moves along, a powerful magnet attracts steel and tin, then drops them into a bucket. The items are baled into giant cubes and sent to plants to melt them before recycling into new products.

9 CAN-CAN CURRENT
Aluminum isn't usually magnetic, so cans and foil pass by the first magnet. Instead, a machine creates a strong magnetic field that repels the aluminum, blasting it off the conveyor belt and into another bucket. The aluminum can be melted down and recycled into cans and foil at another facility.

10 LAST STOP
The separated paper, glass, steel, aluminum, and plastic are baled and eventually sold to other facilities that will turn them into recycled products. Other items are sent to a landfill or are burned.



CHECK OUT THIS BOOK!

FUN STUFF

GAMES, LAUGHS, AND LOTS TO DO!

BY AUBRE ANDRUS, TRACEY WEST, AND GARY WEITZMAN

TRAIN YOUR DOG

Come When Called



For this command, use your pup's name followed by the word "come." For example, "Fido, come!" Practice on a leash first so your dog has no other choice but to come to you.

YOU NEED:

- A leash
- Dog treats



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Start with your dog a short distance away from you on a leash.
- 2 Begin jogging and give a gentle tug on the leash so your dog follows you as you say, "Fido, come!" Only give the command once.
- 3 When your dog follows, stop and reward it with a treat. Repeat this process five times.
- 4 Now hold a treat in your hand while your dog is a short distance away from you on the leash.
- 5 Say, "Fido, come!" Reward your pup with the treat when it comes to you. Repeat this process five times.
- 6 Once you've mastered "come" on the leash, you can practice this command off the leash in your home or backyard. It's OK if your pup needs lots of practice to learn this command—every pet is different!

GET MORE
DOG TRAINING
TIPS IN THIS
BOOK!



TRAINING TIP: When you first begin teaching this skill, call your dog only when you know it's likely to come (like when you're running and your pup will want to join you, or when you're holding a treat and your dog can see it). Be sure to give a reward every time your pup completes the command.

TRAIN YOUR CAT

Use a Scratching Post

» Cats can have claws of destruction! But your kitty isn't bad—scratching helps cats stretch, keep their claws sharp, and send messages to other cats. In the wild, your cat would scratch its claws on a tree. In your home, give your kitty the next best thing.

YOU NEED:

- A scratching pad or post. You can choose one made of cardboard or pieces of wood, or one that's covered in carpeting or roughly textured rope called sisal.
- Cat treats like small pieces of cooked tuna fish, turkey, or chicken, or small treats you can buy in the supermarket. (Check that they don't have a lot of artificial ingredients.)

INSTRUCTIONS

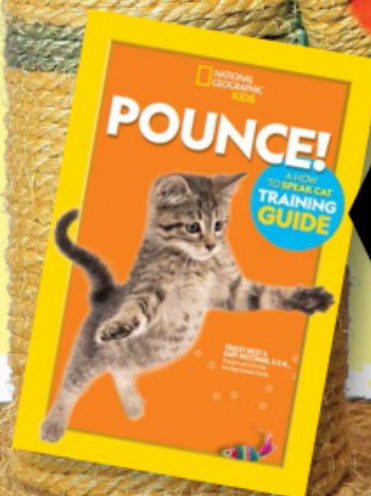
- 1 Pick a spot for the scratching post. Many cats like to scratch and stretch when they wake up, so set it up next to your cat's sleeping area if possible.
- 2 Carry your cat to the post. If kitty scratches the post, reward it with a treat. Repeat this at least five times and continue until the cat starts to use the post on its own.
- 3 If your cat doesn't scratch the post, try putting some toys or favorite treats near the base. You can also try putting some catnip on or around the post. Repeat this each day until your cat uses the post on its own.

TRAINING TIP:

Your cat might still scratch something off-limits, even after you've introduced the scratching post. If this happens, interrupt your cat by firmly saying "No." Then pick up kitty and move it to the scratching post. Don't yell, and never hit your pet.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE SPACE FOR A SCRATCHING POST, LOOK FOR A SCRATCHING PAD LIKE THIS ONE.

GET MORE CAT TRAINING TIPS IN THIS BOOK!



STORM AT SEA

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.

BY BIANCA BOWMAN

PLAY MORE FUNNY FILL-IN!

natgeokids.com/ffi



_____ and I set sail on the famous pirate ship the _____ for our
friend's name **adjective** **animal**
 summer vacation. After _____ out to sea, Captain _____ beard gave us a tour.
verb ending in -ing **color**
 Suddenly the sky turned dark and it started to _____. A bolt of _____ streaked across
verb **noun**
 the sky as a large wave filled with _____ crashed over the side of the ship. Fish were flying everywhere—one
noun, plural
 even landed on my _____. The first mate, _____, took cover with _____.
body part **celebrity** **historical figure**
 The captain was taking down the sail when a(n) _____ gust of wind sent him flying through the air. He held on to
adjective
 the _____ but his trousers flew off the ship, showing _____ - _____.
noun **color** **noun**
 underpants! After he landed back on the deck, we all went below until the storm ended. But we didn't find the captain's pants
 until _____ days later—when we spotted them on a(n) _____'s fin.
large number **ocean animal**



Whatcha Think?

Check out how *Nat Geo Kids* readers responded to this poll, then go online to vote in the next one!

natgeokids.com/whatchathink

What's
your
favorite
summer
snack?

19%

MILKSHAKE

17%

SHAVED
ICE

5%

FROZEN
FRUIT

36%

ICE-CREAM
CONE

12%

ROOT-BEER
FLOAT

11%

FRUITY
ICE POP

EXPLORER ACADEMY

In the new book *Explorer Academy: The Star Dunes*, 13-year-old Cruz Coronado breaks secret codes in order to fight dangerous villains and solve mysteries. Test your own skills by cracking the code on this page, then check out more about the book at ExplorerAcademy.com.

TEXT AND PUZZLE BY GARETH MOORE

THE CODE: FLAG CODE

Secret messages can be hidden in real-life objects, including flags. Here, each flag represents the first letter of the country the flag belongs to. For example, the French flag would represent the letter *f*, and the Argentine flag would represent the letter *a*. Take a look at these flags from different countries below.



CRACK THIS CODE!

Using the first letter of each flag's nation, decode the words below.

ANSWER ON PAGE 33



CHECK OUT THE BOOK!

BREAK MORE CODES!
ExplorerAcademy.com

BACK TALK

1. **Fill in** the thought balloon.
2. **Cut out** the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. **Mail** it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to **Nat Geo Kids, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, Washington, DC 20090-6000**. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of *Nat Geo Kids*.



FROM THE NOVEMBER 2019 ISSUE

Do you think I look cool?

Sebastian A., 10
Bellevue, Washington

If I stand perfectly still, they won't see me.

Allie P., 10
Covington, Louisiana

I'll dance for seals.

Wyatt T., 6
Ottawa, Kansas

I would go surfing, but the water is so cold I can't bear it!

Evelyn J., 11
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Ice is nice!

Eli O., 8
Matthews, North Carolina

Hula dancing to raise money to fight climate change!

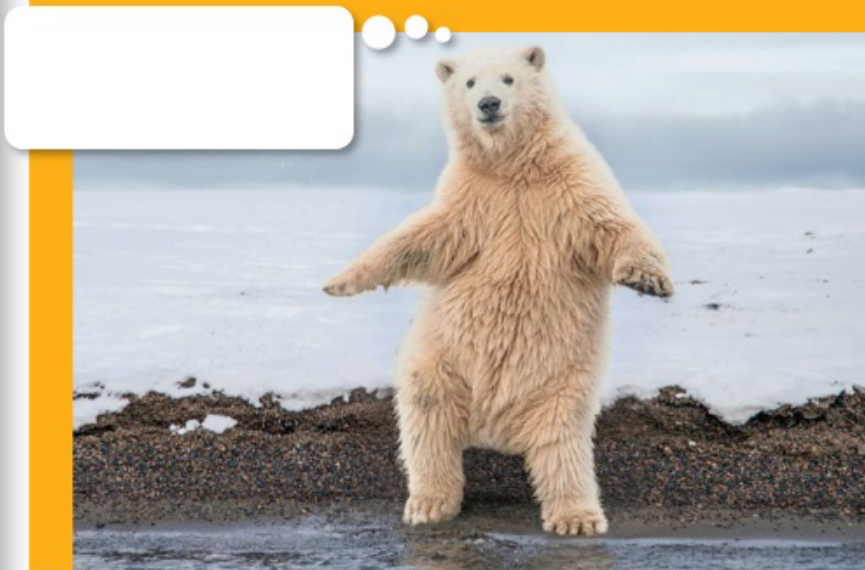
Jane W., 12
Bozeman, Montana

I'm gonna melt the ice with these hot moves.

Maddox V., 10
Crozet, Virginia

I'm ice-zilla!

Nicholas P., 8
Hastings-on-Hudson,
New York

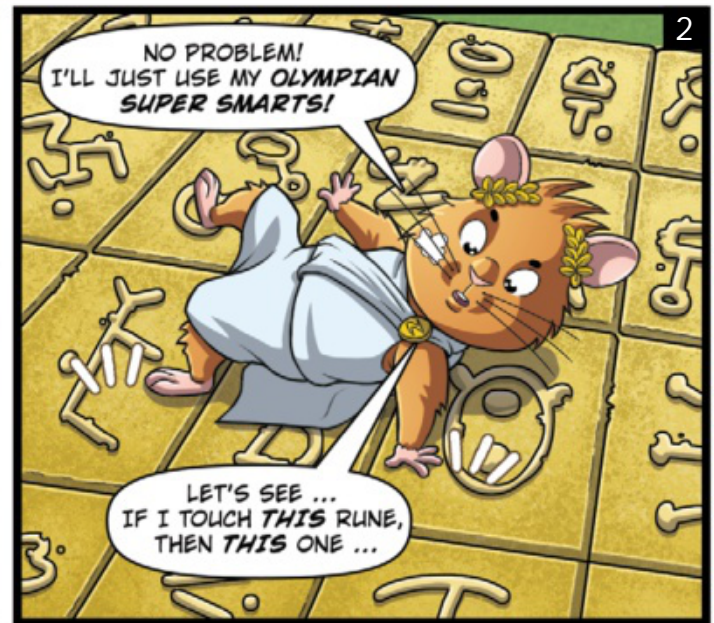


Answers
"Explorer Academy"
(page 32): Messages in
the dark

ZEUS

THE MIGHTY

Zeus the hamster lives with his friends at a pet rescue center. But *he* thinks he's a Greek god! Check out what happens when his two worlds collide, then go online to learn more about the book *Zeus the Mighty: The Maze of the Menacing Minotaur*. ZeusTheMighty.com



CHECK OUT THE BOOK!

I'M JUST
THINKIN'
ABOUT
'ROO!

CRITTER CHAT

If animals used social media, what would they say? Follow this eastern gray kangaroo's day as it updates its feed. BY ALLYSON SHAW

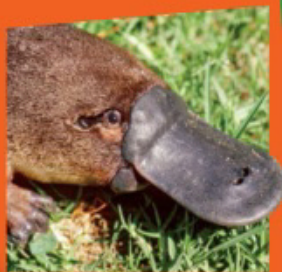


Eastern Gray Kangaroo

LIVES IN: Eastern Australia
SCREEN NAME: HopAlong
FRIENDS: 🐨



PLATYPUS



DuckBeaver

COASTAL PEACOCK SPIDER



SparkleSpider

COMMON BLUE- TONGUED SKINK



TongueSurprise

START

7 a.m.



HopAlong

Has anybody seen my joey? I just let him out of the pouch for the first time, and he's already hopped off on an adventure.



SparkleSpider

I'll keep all eight eyes out!

I remember when that little 'roo was the size of a cherry! 🍒 That was when my lima-bean-size babies were still in their eggs. (Oh, y'all forgot I'm the only mammal that lays eggs?!)



DuckBeaver

Oh yeah, I saw your joey not too long ago. He spooked me so much that I flashed my bright-blue tongue at him to scare him off. #SorryNotSorry



TongueSurprise



HopAlong

Thanks, everybody! He's back in the pouch—and he's grounded.



3 p.m.



HopAlong

Woot—29 feet! My best long jump ever! #GoldMedalForMe



OK, but I'd lap you in a swimming contest. Meet me in the lagoon anytime, any day.



DuckBeaver



That's nothing. Watch me shimmy-shake to impress a special lady spider.



SparkleSpider

That's one delicious-looking dance. 😊



TongueSurprise

4:55 p.m.



HopAlong

It's FINALLY cooling off. Time to feast on grass with my mob!



DuckBeaver

That sounds like too many party animals—I like to splash solo.

Bedtime for me. And since I just lost my tail to a falcon, I need my beauty sleep to start growing it back. TTYL!



TongueSurprise

Now that the lizard's snoozing, I can get in one last hunt without worrying. Look out, crickets!



SparkleSpider

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